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on human rights of migrants
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Report of the Secretary-General

ANNEX

Submission from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
dated 10 February 1998

GE.98 - 13122

Tuesday, 10. February 1998

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presents its compliments to the Office the High Commissioner for Human Rights and would like to refer to its note verbale of 2nd December 1997 on the subject of Human Rights of Migrants.

The Permanent Mission is pleased to enclose herewith the answers provided by the competent authorities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the questionnaire enclosed in the above-mentioned note.

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Questionnaire on the human rights of migrant workers

C.1 The number of non-Jordanian workers holding valid work permits authorizing them to work in the Kingdom amounted to 123,149 during the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 November 1997.

A.2 Non-Jordanian workers enjoy legal protection in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Act No. 8 of 1996, the regulations, directives and ordinances promulgated pursuant thereto, and the Social Security Act No. 30 of 1978.

D. A number of bilateral labour agreements have been signed between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Governments of a number of Arab and foreign States with a view to cooperation in the field of manpower.

3. There is no form of discrimination between Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers in our legislation or in actual practice. The Jordanian Labour Act No. 8 of 1996 defines the expression "workers" in absolute terms without any discrimination or further specification. The provisions contained in the Labour Act concerning the obligations, rights and privileges of workers are applied to all Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers without any distinction.

Moreover, if an employer refuses to fulfil his obligations towards a worker, the worker, regardless of whether he is Jordanian or non-Jordanian, can institute legal proceedings against the employer.

4. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was submitted for ratification to the competent authority, which decided not to ratify it since its provisions were not consistent with the circumstances and priorities of our society.

With regard to the International Labour Conventions Nos. 97 of 1949 and 143 of 1975, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is constantly studying and reviewing the International Labour Conventions that have been adopted in order to determine the possibility of ratifying those which are consistent with the situation in the Jordanian labour market.